

that child because of that situation. I don't think we want to encourage that. I think we want to discourage that and the intent of this bill is to move in that direction, so I would ask your support for LB 201 at this time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Labedz, and then Senator Chambers, and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Johnson, I have a couple of questions I'd like to ask you about the bill. These are the same questions I asked you last year when you had LB 112 and you gave me some satisfactory answers then. I certainly hope that the decisions will be the same and this is absolutely for the record. If this bill is intended...or could it be interpreted to provide funding through the high-risk pregnancy support program for the performance of abortions or for abortion counseling, abortion referral or transportation to abortion clinics or fees for the performance of abortions for women who are eligible to participate?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: This bill is not intended to provide any funding whatsoever for abortion or any abortion related services, particularly abortion counseling or transportation to an abortion facility. If such funding ever did occur under this bill I would be, not only surprised, but dismayed, disappointed and would think it to be violative of the basic intent of the bill.

SENATOR LABEDZ: And then Section 11 of the bill mandates that any pregnant woman applying for or participating in the program shall be referred to genetic counseling and I think you gave out this handout and I am concerned with parts of it on page 11.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Does this mean that as a condition upon her receiving assistance under the high-risk pregnancy support program a woman must participate in family planning or genetic counseling?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: No. In no way is a woman to be compelled to participate in either family planning or genetic counseling, but it will be an available service, genetic counseling is.